

Application No. 10/072,149  
RCE and Amendment dated July 9, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of April 9, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

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1. (Currently amended) An erosion control system comprising:  
a flexible matting ~~having an upper surface and a lower surface structured to be secured to or placed on a sloped, substantially unvegetated surface, the matting including~~  
a core layer formed of a fiber matrix comprising randomly oriented fibers, the fiber matrix forming a substantially flat upper surface and a substantially flat lower surface; and  
an a permanent upper layer bonded to the substantially flat upper surface of the core layer;  
the flexible matting being structured to control erosion of a substantially unvegetated sloped surface when the matting is placed on a substantially unvegetated sloped surface the upper surface of the matting having a substantially planar surface topography without substantial three dimensional features.
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2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the matting has a density of at least about 0.5 pounds per square yard.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the matting has a density of at least about 0.7 pounds per square yard.
4. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the ~~upper surface of the~~ matting has a Mannings "N" value of roughness of less than about 0.044.
5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the upper

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surface of the matting has a Mannings "N" value of roughness of about 0.026.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the flexible matting is structured to substantially prevent soil loss from the sloped, unvegetated surface when the surface is exposed to at liquid flow at a velocity of greater than about 9.5 feet per second and less than about 20 feet per second.

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7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the flexible matting is structured to prevent substantial soil loss from the sloped, substantially unvegetated surface when the surface is exposed to a liquid flow having a duration greater than about 30 minutes to about 50 hours.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the flexible matting is structured to prevent substantial soil loss from the substantially unvegetated, sloped surface when the surface is exposed to flow conditions having velocities of greater than about 9.5 feet per second to about 20 feet per second and a duration of greater than about 30 minutes to about 50 hours.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the fiber matrix comprises a material selected from the group consisting of coconut fibers, flax fibers, polypropylene fibers and combinations thereof.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the upper layer comprises a geogrid.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 10 wherein the

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Sub C' } upper layer comprises a biaxial geogrid.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the biaxial geogrid is stitch bonded with the core layer.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) An erosion control system comprising: a flexible matting structured to be secured to or placed on a surface prone to erosion, the matting comprising a core layer ~~formed of a fiber matrix comprising~~ consisting essentially of Sudan Grass.

15. (Canceled)

B' 16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14 wherein the ~~fiber matrix~~ core layer is substantially absent of wheat straw.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The system of claim 14 further comprising a geogrid secured to the core layer.

19. (Currently amended) An erosion control system comprising: a flexible matting structured to be secured to or placed on a surface prone to erosion, the matting including a core layer consisting essentially ~~formed~~ of rice straw fibers.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19 wherein the core layer consists essentially ~~is formed~~ of randomly oriented rice

straw fibers.

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21. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the flexible matting further includes a geogrid secured to an upper surface of the core layer.

22. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the flexible matting further includes a polypropylene geogrid secured to an upper surface of the core layer.

23. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the fiber matrix has a substantially continuous, uniform thickness defined between the substantially flat upper surface and the substantially flat lower surface.

24. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the flexible matting is further structured such that the upper layer remains bonded to the substantially flat upper surface of the core layer.

25. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the upper layer is stitch bonded to the core layer.

26. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the upper layer comprises polypropylene strands.